at issue is that the Public Distribution system is not in a position to get the required grains from the *Mandis* for the obvious reasons. Take for example the granary of India, i.e. Punjab and Haryana. The present price is Rs. 2.80 per kg. The Government has fixed a price of Rs. 1.84. So, what is the Public Distribution System doing to replenish the dwindling stocks? On the one hand, there are demands from the States for more stocks. How is he going to replenish the dwindling stocks in the light of these anomalies that exist?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the stock dwindling? If so, what are you doing?

श्री डी० एल० बैठा : स्टाक डविंडल कर रहा है । मगर इन्होंने प्रोक्योरमेंट का सवाल उठाया है । यह बात सही है कि प्रोक्योरमेंट जो सपोर्ट प्राईस है हम लोग उस पर करते हैं और कभी-कभी यह देखा जाता है कि सपोर्ट प्राइस से मारकेट का प्राइस ज्यादा रहता है । अगर हम लोग सिर्फ मार्केट के प्राइस से ही इसको परचेज करें तो रिटेल प्राइस ज्यादा हो जायेगा और हमारा उद्देश्य डिफीट हो जायेगा । हम इस पर इस तरह से देना चाहते हैं कि बाजार पर भी उसका असर पड़े और लोगों को यह अवेलेबुल भी हो जाये । इसलिए हम सपोर्ट प्राइस पर खरीदते हैं ।

Setting up of a Monitoring Cell for the Radio Television programmes of other countries

*325 SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Monitoring Cell for the Radio and Television programmes of other countries has been set up; if so, when and the details of the work done by it so far and the reports, if any, submitted by it;

(b) the money spent on it during the last three years, yearwise; and

(c) whether a number of Video Cassettes are missing from the said Cell; if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Monitoring Cell was set up on the 26th June, 1986. The Cell makes an analysis of the transcripts of broadcasts/telecasts monitored at Aya Nagar, Jammu and Berhampur. The Cell has submitted 130 weekly reports and 50 special reports.

(b) The money spent on the running of the Monitoring Cell during the last three years is given below:—

1986-87	—	Rs. 4.19 lakhs
1987-88	—	Rs. 10.00 lakhs
1988-89	—	Rs. 9.06 lakhs upto 28-2-89.

(c) A packet containing video cassettes sent by the Field Unit, Berhampur to Delhi under registered post have not been received. A complaint has been lodged with the Post Master, Berhampur.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the hon. Minister has given the number of certain reports received. I want to know how many of them are about the A.I.R. monitoring, how many of them are about T.V. monitoring, which countries are doing propaganda against us, what use the monitoring reports are being put to and what measures are being taken to counteract that propaganda on our T.V. and radio. They have opened office in the North-East and Northern region. I am not going to name those countries because it may embarrass the Government. But I want to know how many T.V. cassettes they have received. My information is that it is not being done on a regular basis at all. For example, Bangladesh started a propaganda barrage against us trying to internationalise the

†The question was actually asked on the Floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

Ganga issue. Has the Government done anything about it? Has the Government received any report about our Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan? What has happened about that I want replies to these questions.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, as far as the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan is concerned, we did monitor it and we did get the required information from it. I am not in a position to give all the detailed information which the hon. Member is asking for. What happens is this that sometimes in other countries their point of view is projected. Sometimes that point of view is considered adverse by us. From our radio station and from our own network we give our viewpoint. That is the position.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I am referring to Part (c) of his reply. The Minister has very kindly admitted that a packet is missing. My information is that there is regular pilferage of T.V. cassettes, particularly of a very sensitive nature, being sent from the North-East. Now I want to know about the particular TV cassette packet about which the Minister has admitted. What are its contents? Why poolproof measures have not been taken by the Government to stop such pilferage? He has only said that a complaint has been lodged. What are the follow-up measures that they have taken?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: What are the contents of that particular TV cassette packet which was sent, I cannot say, and whether it was a pilferage also, we cannot say. That was not received. The matter was reported to the Post Master, and that matter is being pursued.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will he order an enquiry into it? My complaint is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is enquiring into it himself.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, this is an important matter which my colleague, Mr. Verma has raised. Whenever you have the possibility of having good programmes of your own country, it is necessary for a fine tuning of our own programmes that we monitor what is going on around us. Now it appears the monitoring is not satisfactory, that the analysis is not satisfactory. The use to which it is put has been answered by the Hon. Minister in a very simple manner that we try to reply to it from our own programes. Sir, what I want to know is this: Is there any machinery set up by him not only to have monitoring of stations which are around us only—as far as Television is concerned, you can get it only from the nearby countries and the border countries, but I understand that as far as All India Radio is concerned, this has been going on far a long time—and even stations like BBC who have more than once given cause for political situations in our country, when wrong information and disinformation was being fed to us in this region? Is there a system by which the BBC, the Voice of America and other news services are monitored by our Ministry and whether this is fed to the other Ministries, who have to give a reply in terms of the media. Because these will have repercussions on foreign affairs and foreign policies of our own country? What is the system that we have set up? What action is being taken to make sure about the second point that Mr. Verma has raised, that the casettes which are coming can be protected? Some system can be set up so that they are not lost.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, the question contains many supplementaries. I would like to say, number one, that there is a system where through Radio we can monitor various stations. It is easier to monitor through our own radio system the news from certain other countries. And that monitoring is done. And then if any information comes to our notice that is brought to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs for such action as they consider it appropriate. And it will not be possible for me to give many details in this connection. Secondly, as far as this particular thing is concerned where the

package has been sent, I have already answered that the matter is being pursued with the Postal authorities, and the anxiety that the hon. Member has expressed, we shall take care to see that this system can improve.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know as to what are the various uses of monitoring of programmes of other countries into India. Is it a fact that in the past that All India Radio has failed to monitor stantaneously the big events taking place in other countries. So, what precautions have been taken against such vital failures in the monitoring system?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: The purpose of monitoring is simply to know what is being said so that if any adverse propaganda is going on and if our point of view is to be projected, we project it through our own media, through our External Services and other ways and so and through our Missions. The whole idea is to know and then to project our view through legitimate means.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the television network and this monitoring system is concerned, there is no doubt that this network has gone to the remote areas of the country. But as far as the monitoring system of T.V. is concerned, I want to know whether the Ministry is aware of the number of films that are shown on the T.V. in a week. I think more than five films are shown. And also whether the Ministry is aware of the type of films that are shown, because instead of going to cinema houses, the children watch films on T.V., which is roughly one film a day, and this will have a very bad effect. Is there any guideline to this monitoring cell about showing of the films on the T.V.? If not, how this monitoring is being done?

Another point is, the T.V. network has gone to remote areas but in some of the Scheduled Tribes areas and tribal areas, there is no T.V. network. What action is going to be taken by the Government to extend the T.V. setwork to these remote areas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about other countries.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I asked about the monitoring system for the T.V.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to monitoring of broadcasts of other countries.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: This issue of so-called cultural invasion has been discussed is various forums and in this august House also several times. Sir, the T.V. and radio programmes from across the border have had their own impact, particularly in the border areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has been the outcome of the monitoring system and how is this propaganda combated and whether there is any special programme of assistance in the border areas to augment the strength of broadcasting and telecasting.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: We are taking steps. We have improved to an extent, I would say, our own network of radio and T.V. in the border areas; we have a plan and we are further supplementing it and augmenting it. The best way to project our viewpoint and to counter any adverse propaganda which may some time come, is to augment our own system of broadcasting, which we are doing, and we are giving priority to augment the stations in border areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

326. [The] questioners (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Sardar Jagjit Singh Anrara) were absent. For answer vide Cols. 35-36 infra.

Import of films/serials for National Net Work

*327. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is importing some foreign films/serials for the national net work;